

Can an agency separately bid out for the materials and supplies on a project to avoid contractor markup and then bid out for the installation labor or perform installation with its own forces?

An agency may separately procure the materials and supplies for a project; however, all costs (materials, supplies, labor) of a project must be included in the project cost estimate to determine whether the project falls within the force account, informal bid, or formal bid thresholds. In addition, if installation is performed by force account, an overhead rate must be applied to all direct costs of the project and included in the cost estimate. For example, if materials/supplies cost \$50,000 to procure separately and the estimated labor cost to install is \$25,000, the project could not be performed with force account, but would fall within the informal bid threshold because the total cost estimate is \$75,000.